

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 1 is currently being amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at least in paragraphs [0030] to [0033] of the specification, and in FIGs. 5 and 6.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 14-16, 19 and 39-40 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 14, 19 and 39-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,923,235 to van Oort (hereafter “van Oort”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,016,638 to Hsieh (hereafter “Hsieh”). Claims 2, 3, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Oort in view of Hsieh in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,492 to Ohsaki (hereafter “Ohsaki”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “a vibration isolation system adapted to support the MRI magnet system, the vibration isolation system comprising an adjustable balance mass rigidly attached to the open MRI magnet system and configured to be adjusted so as to raise or lower the center of gravity of the magnet system.” None of van Oort, Hsieh, or Ohsaki disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 1.

Moreover, the recited feature of claim 1, where the balance mass is rigidly attached to the magnet system and adjustable to raise or lower the magnet system center of gravity is quite different from the system disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,781,363 to Braun cited in earlier Office Actions. In the Braun system the mass 9 is attached to a connecting member 6 which contacts bellows 5 and 3 and vibrations allow the mass 9 to move relative to the

vibration member 1. Thus, even if one were to modify the Hsieh system to include the vibration isolator of Braun, the resultant system would not have a balance mass rigidly attached to the Hsieh magnet system configured to raise or lower the center of gravity of the magnet system.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which they ultimately depend, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 10, 2007

By Thomas G. Bilodeau

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6090
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438